

MONROE, LA.
NEWS-STAR

E. 16,896

CPYRGHT

MAY 14 1965

Intelligence And Policy

The appointment of retired Vice Admiral William F. Raborn as director of the Central Intelligence Agency could bring about a needed change in the position held by that highly secret government operation.

From time to time during its 18 years, the CIA has functioned as a maker of foreign policy as much as it has served to gather and evaluate intelligence information.

We admit it's difficult to draw the line between policymaking and such evaluation. For when information relating to the operations of other governments is evaluated by such agencies as the CIA, our policymakers are influenced if not guided in the process.

With a former military man in the director's post, the CIA should now better realize its position as a clearing house for information rather than an advisory agency for the making of U. S. foreign policy. This is as it should be.

The agency is an arm of the executive branch of the federal government with practically no accountability to Congress. Since it went into business during World War II, the strength of its role has depended to a great extent

on the director's relationship with the President.

Admiral Raborn, who succeeds such notables as John A. McCone and Allen Dulles as head of the CIA, is a man of great drive and proven ability. The new director has experienced a diversified military career with research as a particular specialty. Perhaps his most noted achievement was guiding the Polaris missile project through the government's red tape and bringing it to a speedy reality.

In all probability, the CIA will stick moreso to the role of an agency which seeks intelligence information and informs the chief executive.

In certain instances in the recent past — particularly in the Cuban invasion attempt and in the overthrow of the Diem government in South Viet Nam — the CIA demonstrated how too many policymaking cooks can spoil the broth. It's hoped that former Vice Admiral Raborn, accustomed to the role played by military intelligence in the whole of an operation, will be able to contain the CIA in its proper and vital position in the making of our foreign policy.